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July 26, 2000

Atty. Docket No.: P65803US0

CUSTOMER NUMBER: 00136

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of
Chun-Hsien TSENG for **FOLDABLE CHAIR FRAME**. The application
comprises a 14-page specification including 8 claims (1 independent)
and Abstract, 5 sheets of drawings, and a Declaration and Power of
Attorney (4 sheets in total).

Accompanying the application for filing is:

Small Entity Declaration under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.19 and 1.27;

The filing fee has been calculated as shown:

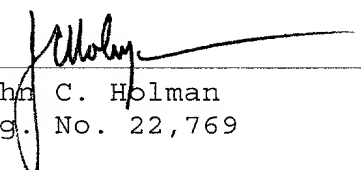
Basic Fee for Small Entity:	\$ 345.00
Total Claims 8 - in excess of 20 = 0 (x \$9.00=)	.00
Total Ind. Claims 1 - in excess of 3 = 0 (x \$39.00=)	.00
	+
TOTAL FILING FEE	\$ 345.00

Check No. 48827, in the amount of \$345.00, is enclosed to cover the
Filing Fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment
of any fees set forth in §§1.16 or 1.17 during the pendency of this
application, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-
1358. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON, PRICE, HOLMAN & STERN, PLLC

By


John C. Holman
Reg. No. 22,769

cmf

jc875 U.S. PTO
09/26/00
07/26/00



Applicant or Patentee: Chun-Hsien TSENG Attorney's
Serial or Patent No.: _____ Docket No.: _____
Filed or Issued: _____
For: FOLDABLE CHAIR FRAME

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9 (f) and 1.27 (b)) — INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9 (c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41 (a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled FOLDABLE CHAIR FRAME described in

☒ the specification filed herewith
☐ application serial no. _____, filed _____
☐ patent no. _____, issued _____

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9 (c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9 (e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

☒ no such person, concern, or organization
☐ persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28 (b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Chun-Hsien TSENG

NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR
<u>Tseng Chun-Hsien</u>		
Signature of Inventor	Signature of Inventor	Signature of Inventor
<u>July 14, 2000</u>		
Date	Date	Date

FOLDABLE CHAIR FRAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a foldable chair frame, more particularly to a foldable chair frame with a relatively simple structure.

2. Description of the Related Art

10 Foldable chairs with backrests are known in the art. The conventional foldable chair of this type generally includes a backrest frame, a seat frame pivoted to the backrest frame, and front and rear legs pivoted to the seat frame and the backrest frame and further pivoted to each other. When the chair is folded, the seat frame is usually folded on the backrest frame, and the front and rear legs are folded on the seat frame. The conventional foldable chair as such occupies a relatively large amount of storage space after folding.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 Therefore, the main object of the present invention is to provide a foldable chair frame with a relatively simple structure and a reduced thickness after folding.

Accordingly, the foldable chair frame of the present invention includes a front leg, a rear leg, an adjustable extension rod, and a seat frame. The front leg has a lower end portion adapted to be supported on a ground surface, a tubular upper end portion which extends upwardly and rearwardly from the lower end

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portion and which confines an axial insert hole with a top opening, and an intermediate portion between the lower end portion and the tubular upper end portion. The upper end portion is formed with at least one radial positioning hole. The rear leg has a lower end portion adapted to be supported on the ground surface, an upper end portion which extends upwardly and forwardly from the lower end portion of the rear leg, and an intermediate portion connected pivotally to the intermediate portion of the front leg. The adjustable extension rod has a lower end portion extending into the axial insert hole in the upper end portion of the front leg via the top opening, and an upper end portion. The lower end portion of the extension rod is provided with a resilient positioning protrusion which projects radially into the positioning hole for engaging the positioning hole so as to position the lower end portion of the extension rod on the upper end portion of the front leg. The seat frame is disposed above the front and rear legs and the extension rod, and has a rear part connected pivotally to the upper end portion of the extension rod, and a front part connected pivotally to the upper end portion of the rear leg. The positioning protrusion is depressible for disengaging from the positioning hole to permit sliding movement of the extension rod relative to the front leg, thereby permitting the extension rod to retract into the upper

end portion of the front leg, and thereby permitting folding of the front and rear legs toward the seat frame.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 Other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent in the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

10 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the foldable chair frame of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a side view of the preferred embodiment;

15 Figure 3 is a fragmentary exploded sectional view illustrating the connections between a connecting rod and a front leg and between the connecting rod and a seat frame;

Figure 4 is another side view of the preferred embodiment, illustrating the seat frame positioned at another inclination; and

20 Figure 5 is a top view showing the preferred embodiment in a folded state.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to Figures 1 to 3, the preferred embodiment of the foldable chair frame according to the present invention is shown to include a pair of front
25 legs 12, a pair of rear legs 22, a pair of extension units 3, and a seat frame 4.

The front legs 12 are connected to each other at lower end portions thereof by means of a transverse front connecting rod 11 which is adapted to be disposed on a ground surface. Each of the front legs 12 extends upwardly and rearwardly from its lower end portion, and has a tubular upper end portion 125 which confines an axial insert hole 121 with a top opening 126. The upper end portion 125 of each of the front legs 12 is formed with a radial retaining hole 122 at a lateral outer side opposite to the other one of the front legs 12, and three radial positioning holes 123 at a lateral inner side facing the other one of the front legs 12. The positioning holes 123 are displaced from and are aligned with one another in an axial direction.

The rear legs 22 are connected to each other at lower end portions thereof by a transverse rear connecting rod 21 which is adapted to be disposed on the ground surface. Each of the rear legs 22 extends forwardly and upwardly from its lower end portion, and has an upper end portion formed with a pivot hole 221, and an intermediate portion which is disposed at the lateral outer side of a respective one of the front legs 12, and which is connected pivotally to the intermediate portion of the respective one of the front legs 12 by means of a horizontal pivot shaft 23.

Each of the extension units 3 includes an adjustable extension rod 31, a resilient positioning member 33 and

a resilient retaining member 32. The extension rod 31 is tubular in shape, and confines an axial passage 312 therethrough. The extension rod 31 has an open lower end portion extending slidably into the upper end portion 125 of a respective one of the front legs 12 via the top opening 126, and an upper end portion formed with a pivot hole 313. The lower end portion of each of the extension rods 31 is formed with a radial first mounting hole 315 at a lateral inner side thereof for alignment with a selected one of the radial positioning holes 123 in the upper end portion 125 of a respective one of the front legs 12, and a radial second mounting hole 314 at a lateral outer side thereof for alignment with the radial retaining hole 122 in the upper end portion 125 of the respective one of the front legs 12.

The positioning member 33 and the retaining member 32 are retained resiliently in the axial passage 312 in the extension rod 31. Each of the positioning member 33 and the retaining member 32 includes a spring plate 331, 321 with two lateral plate portions which cooperatively form a generally V-shaped structure. The positioning member 33 has a positioning protrusion 332 formed on an outer side of one of the lateral plate portions thereof for projecting through the first mounting hole 315 in the extension rod 31. The retaining member 32 has a retaining protrusion 322 formed on an outer side of one of the lateral plate portions thereof

for projecting through the second mounting hole 314 in the extension rod 31.

The seat frame 4 includes a generally annular frame portion 40 with front and rear parts. In other
5 embodiments, the frame portion may be formed in other shapes, such as rectangular or oval. A pair of front pivot seats 41 and a pair of rear pivot seats 41' are welded to a bottom side of the frame portion 40 at two lateral sides of the front and rear parts of the frame
10 portion 40. Each of the front and rear pivot seats 41, 41' has a parallel pair of downwardly extending pivot lobes 411. The upper end portion of each of the rear legs 22 extends between the pivot lobes 411 of a respective one of the front pivot seats 41, and is
15 connected pivotally to the front pivot seat 41 by means of a pivot pin 42 that extends transversely through the pivot lobes 411 and the pivot hole 221 in the upper end portion of the respective rear leg 22. The upper end portion of each of the extension rods 31 extends between
20 the pivot lobes 411 of a respective one of the rear pivot seats 41', and is connected pivotally to the rear pivot seat 41' by means of a pivot pin 43 that extends transversely through the pivot lobes 411 and the pivot hole 313 in the upper end portion of the respective
25 extension rod 31. A fabric piece 5 is mounted on the frame portion 40 of the seat frame 4 to form a seat.

After assembly, the front and rear legs 12, 22 cross each other, and the seat frame 4 is inclined in a manner that the rear part of the annular frame portion 40 is disposed at a higher position than the front part such that a backrest is provided by the fabric piece 5. The positioning protrusion 332 on each of the positioning members 33 projects through the first mounting hole 315 in a respective one of the extension rods 31, and projects into a selected one of the positioning holes 123 in a corresponding one of the front legs 12 for engaging the selected positioning hole 123, thereby positioning the extension rod 31 on the respective front leg 12. When the positioning member 33 in each of the extension rods 31 engages an uppermost one of the positioning holes 123 in the respective one of the front legs 12, the retaining protrusion 322 of each of the retaining members 32 projects into the retaining hole 122 in the upper end portion 125 of the respective front leg 12 for engaging the retaining hole 122. The retaining protrusions 322 help secure the extension rods 31 on the front legs 12 when the positioning protrusions 332 engage an uppermost pair of the positioning holes 123, where only a relatively short section of each of the extension rods 31 is disposed in the respective front leg 12.

Referring to Figures 3 and 4, to adjust the inclination of the seat frame 4, the retaining

protrusions 322 of the retaining members 32 are depressed for retracting into the second mounting holes 314 and for disengaging from the retaining holes 122, and the positioning protrusions 332 of the positioning members 33 are depressed for retracting into the first mounting holes 315 and for disengaging from the uppermost pair of the positioning holes 123, thereby permitting sliding movement of the extension rods 31 relative to the front legs 12 for adjustment of the inclination of the seat frame 4. After the seat frame 4 is adjusted to a desired inclination, the positioning protrusions 332 are released for engaging the selected positioning holes 123 so as to position the seat frame 4 at the adjusted inclination. It is noted that, the retaining protrusions 322 engage the retaining holes 122 only in the case the positioning protrusions 332 engage the uppermost pair of the positioning holes 123 to enhance strength of the connection between the lower end portions of the extension rods 31 and the upper end portions 125 of the front legs 12.

To fold the chair frame of the present embodiment, the positioning protrusions 332 are depressed for disengaging from the positioning holes 123 to permit sliding movement of the extension rods 31 relative to the front legs 12, thereby permitting retraction of the extension rods 31 into the upper end portion 125 of the front legs 12, in the case the positioning protrusions

332 engage the lowermost pair of the positioning holes 123 or the intermediate pair of the positioning holes 123. When the positioning protrusions 332 engage the uppermost pair of the positioning holes 123, both the positioning protrusions 332 and the retaining protrusions 322 are depressed to permit retraction of the extension rods 31 into the front legs 12. Thereafter, the front and rear legs 12, 22 are turned about the pivot shafts 23 in a manner that the front and rear connecting rods 11, 21 move away from each other, as shown in Figure 5, so as to fold the front and rear legs 12, 22 upon a bottom side of the seat frame 4.

Accordingly, with the provision of the extension units 3, the seat frame 4 of the chair frame of the present invention can be positioned at a desired inclination. The chair frame of the present invention has a relatively simple structure, and a reduced thickness after folding.

While the present invention has been described in connection with what is considered the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is understood that this invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiment but is intended to cover various arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent arrangements.

I CLAIM:

1. A foldable chair frame comprising:

5 a front leg having a lower end portion adapted to be supported on a ground surface, a tubular upper end portion which extends upwardly and rearwardly from said lower end portion and which confines an axial insert hole with a top opening, and an intermediate portion between said lower end portion and said tubular upper end portion, said upper end portion being formed with at least one radial positioning hole;

10 a rear leg having a lower end portion adapted to be supported on the ground surface, an upper end portion which extends upwardly and forwardly from said lower end portion of said rear leg, and an intermediate portion connected pivotally to said intermediate portion of said front leg;

15 an adjustable extension rod having a lower end portion extending into said axial insert hole in said upper end portion of said front leg via said top opening, and an upper end portion, said lower end portion of said extension rod being provided with a resilient positioning protrusion which projects radially into said positioning hole for engaging said positioning hole so as to position said lower end portion of said extension rod on said upper end portion of said front leg; and

20

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a seat frame disposed above said front and rear legs and said extension rod, and having a rear part connected pivotally to said upper end portion of said extension rod, and a front part connected pivotally to
5 said upper end portion of said rear leg;

said positioning protrusion being depressible for disengaging from said positioning hole to permit sliding movement of said extension rod relative to said front leg, thereby permitting said extension rod to
10 retract into said upper end portion of said front leg, and thereby permitting folding of said front and rear legs toward said seat frame.

2. The foldable chair frame as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said extension rod is tubular in shape and confines an axial passage with a radial mounting hole,
15 and has a resilient positioning member received in said axial passage, said resilient positioning protrusion being formed on said resilient positioning member.

3. The foldable chair frame as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said positioning member includes a spring plate
20 with two lateral plate portions which cooperatively form a generally V-shaped structure, said positioning protrusion being formed on an outer side of one of said lateral plate portions opposite to the other one of said
25 lateral plate portions.

4. The foldable chair frame as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said upper end portion of said front leg is

further formed with a radial retaining hole, said lower end portion of said extension rod further having a resilient retaining protrusion which projects resiliently and radially into said retaining hole in said front leg to help secure said extension rod on said front leg, said retaining protrusion being depressible for disengaging from said retaining hole so as to permit sliding movement of said extension rod relative to said front leg when said retaining protrusion and said positioning protrusion are depressed.

5. The foldable chair frame as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said extension rod is tubular in shape and confines an axial passage with a radial mounting hole, and has a resilient retaining member received in said axial passage, said resilient retaining protrusion being formed on said resilient retaining member.

6. The foldable chair frame as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said retaining member includes a spring plate having two lateral plate portions which cooperatively form a generally V-shaped structure, said retaining protrusion being formed on an outer side of one of said lateral plate portions opposite to the other one of said lateral plate portions.

7. The foldable chair frame as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said upper end portion of said front leg is formed with at least two of said radial positioning holes which are aligned with and displaced from each

other in an axial direction, said positioning protrusion being extendible into a selected one of said radial positioning holes for engaging the selected one of said radial positioning holes in order to position
5 said seat frame at a desired inclination.

8. The foldable chair frame as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said seat frame has front and rear pivot seats at said front and rear parts, respectively, each of said pivot seats including a parallel pair of pivot lobes
10 which extend downwardly from said seat frame, said upper end portion of said extension rod being disposed between said pivot lobes of said rear pivot seat, said upper end portion of said rear leg being disposed between said pivot lobes of said front pivot seat, each
15 of said front and rear pivot seats further including a pivot pin extending transversely through said pivot lobes for mounting pivotally said upper end portion of a respective one of said extension rod and said rear leg on a corresponding one of said rear and front pivot
20 seats.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A foldable chair frame includes pivotally connected front and rear legs. The front leg has a tubular upper end portion which confines an axial insert hole and which is formed with a radial positioning hole. An extension rod has a lower end portion extending axially into the upper end portion of the front leg, and is provided with a resilient positioning protrusion which projects radially into the positioning hole for positioning the extension rod on the front leg. A seat frame has a rear part pivoted to the upper end portion of the extension rod, and a front part pivoted to the upper end portion of the rear leg. The positioning protrusion is depressible for disengaging from the positioning hole to permit retraction of the extension rod into the front leg, thereby permitting folding of the front and rear legs toward the seat frame.

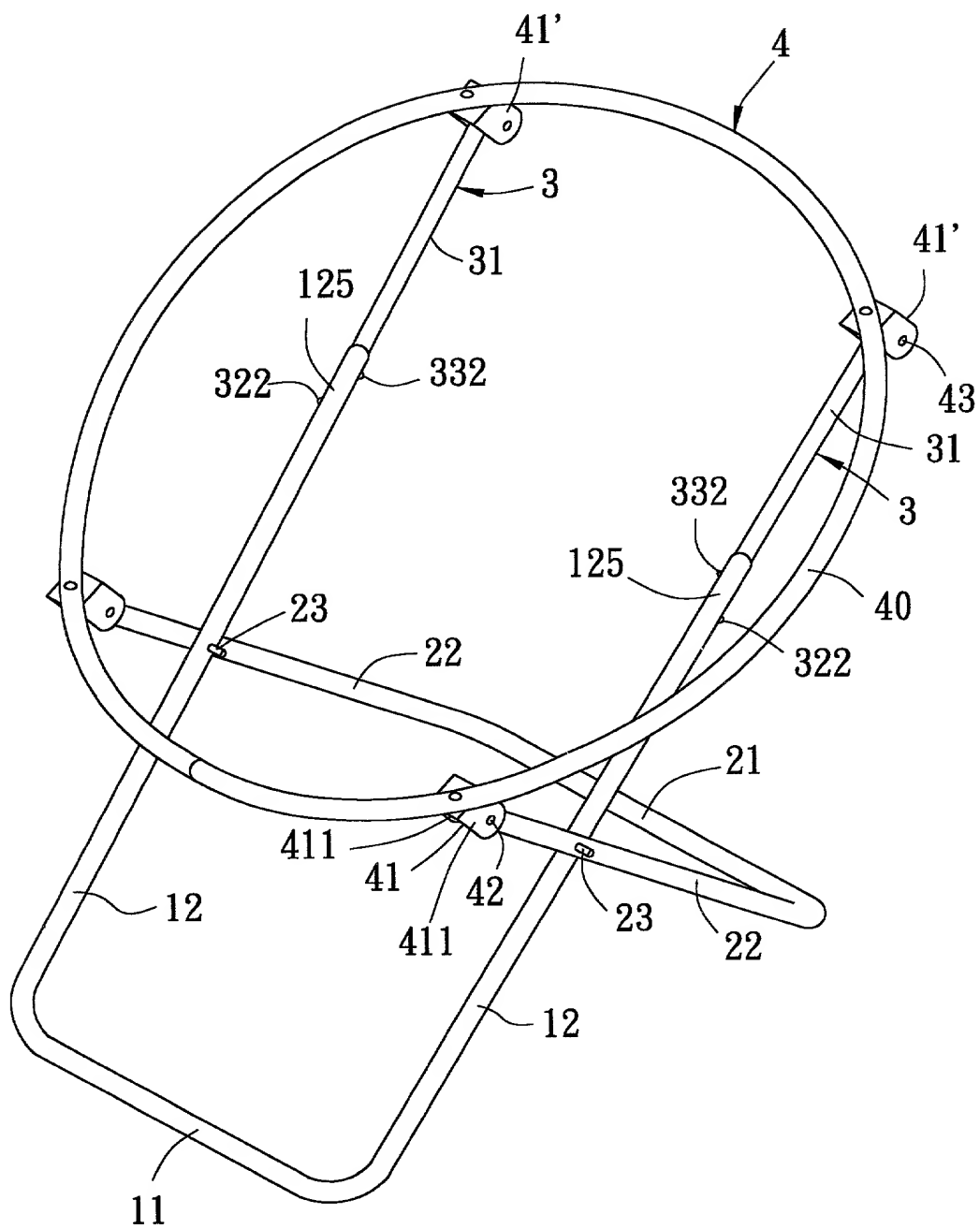


FIG. 1

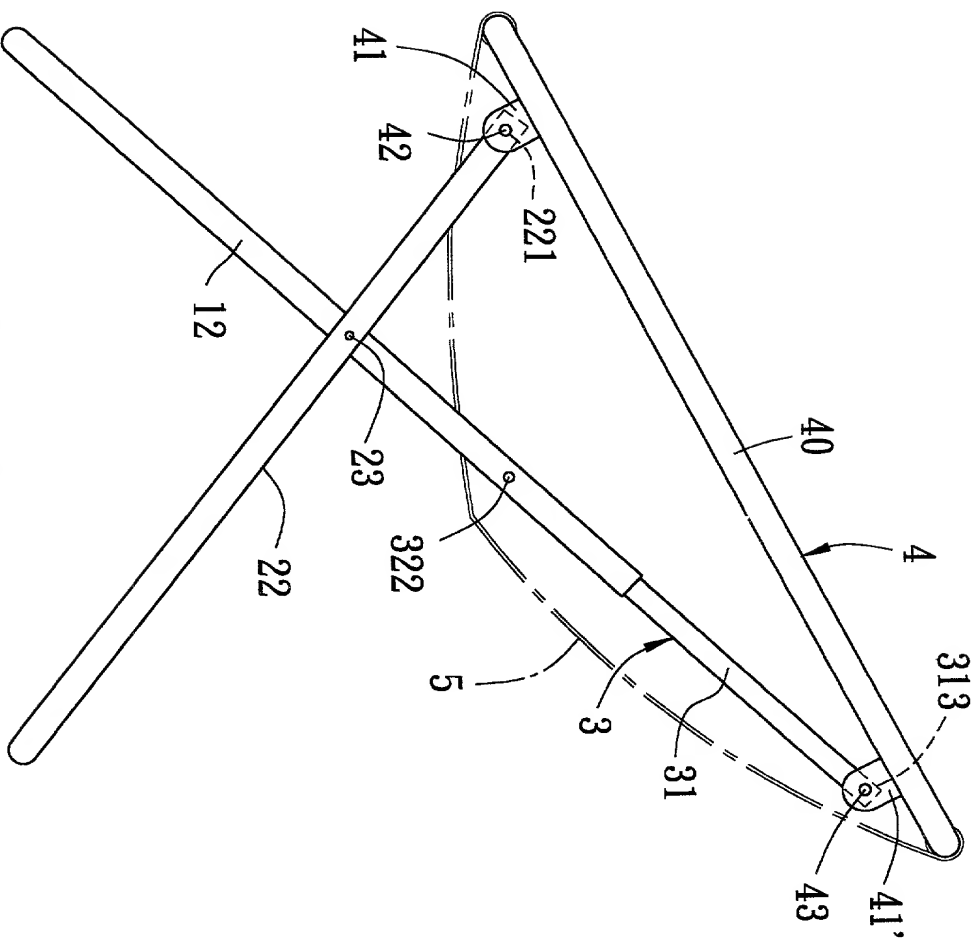


FIG. 2

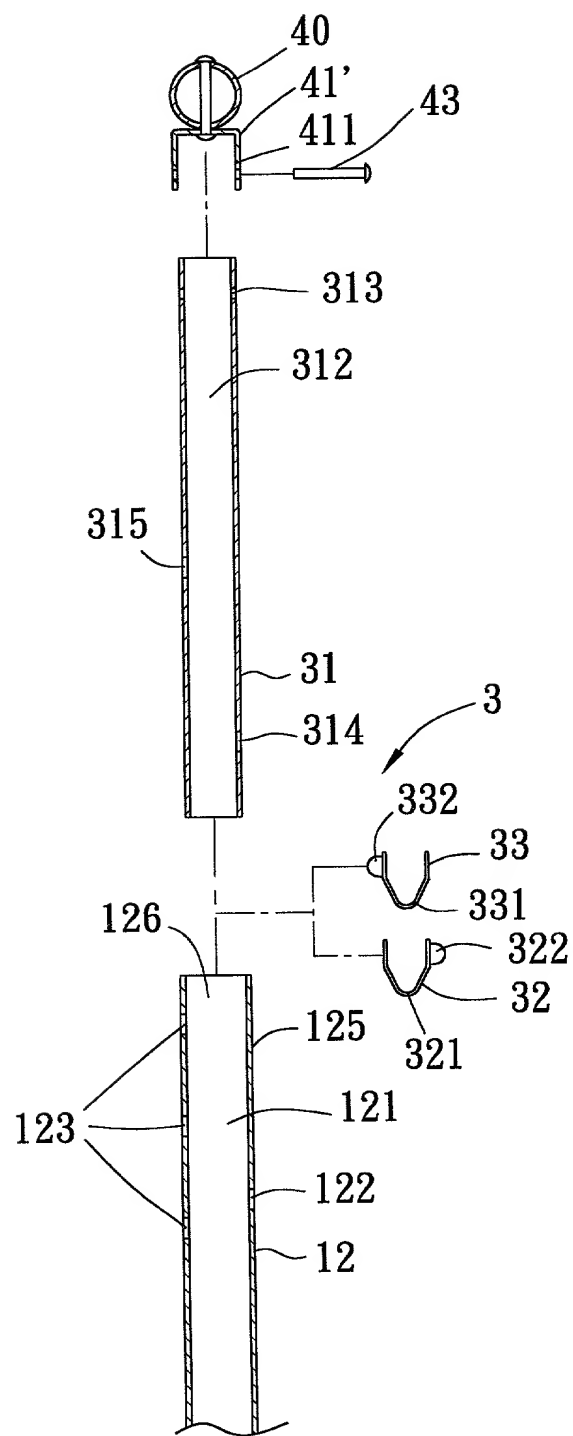


FIG. 3

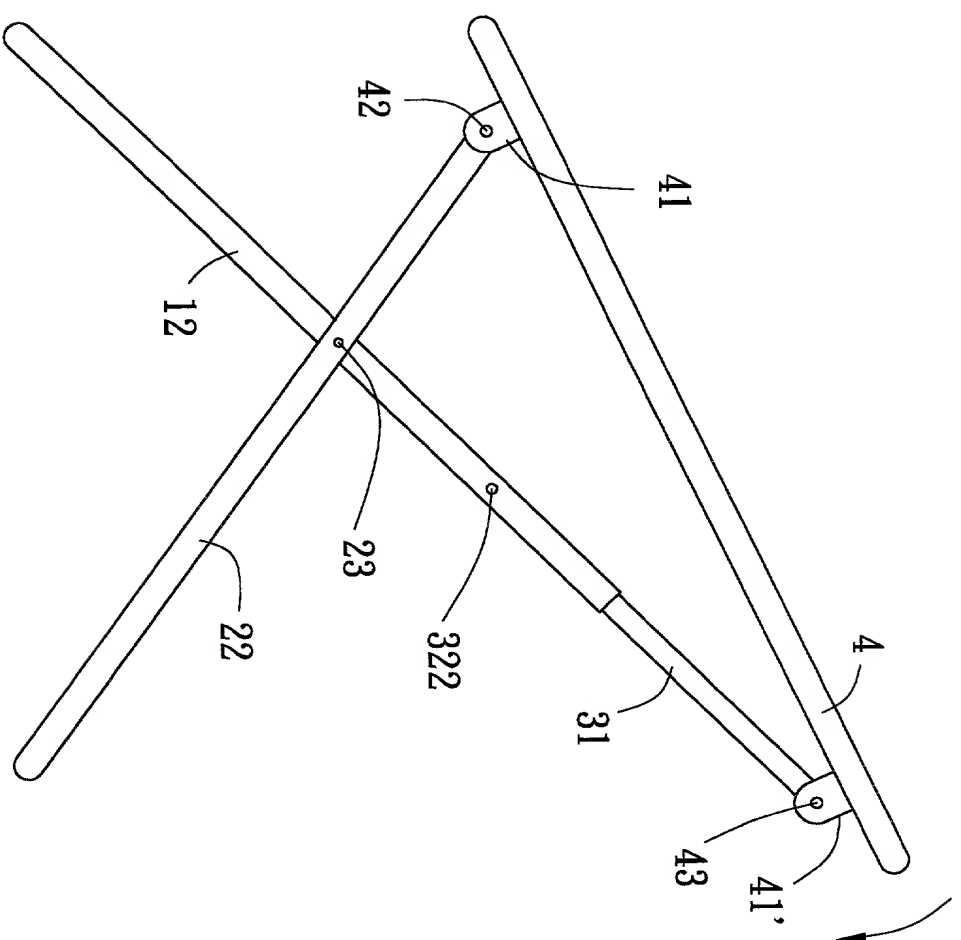


FIG. 4

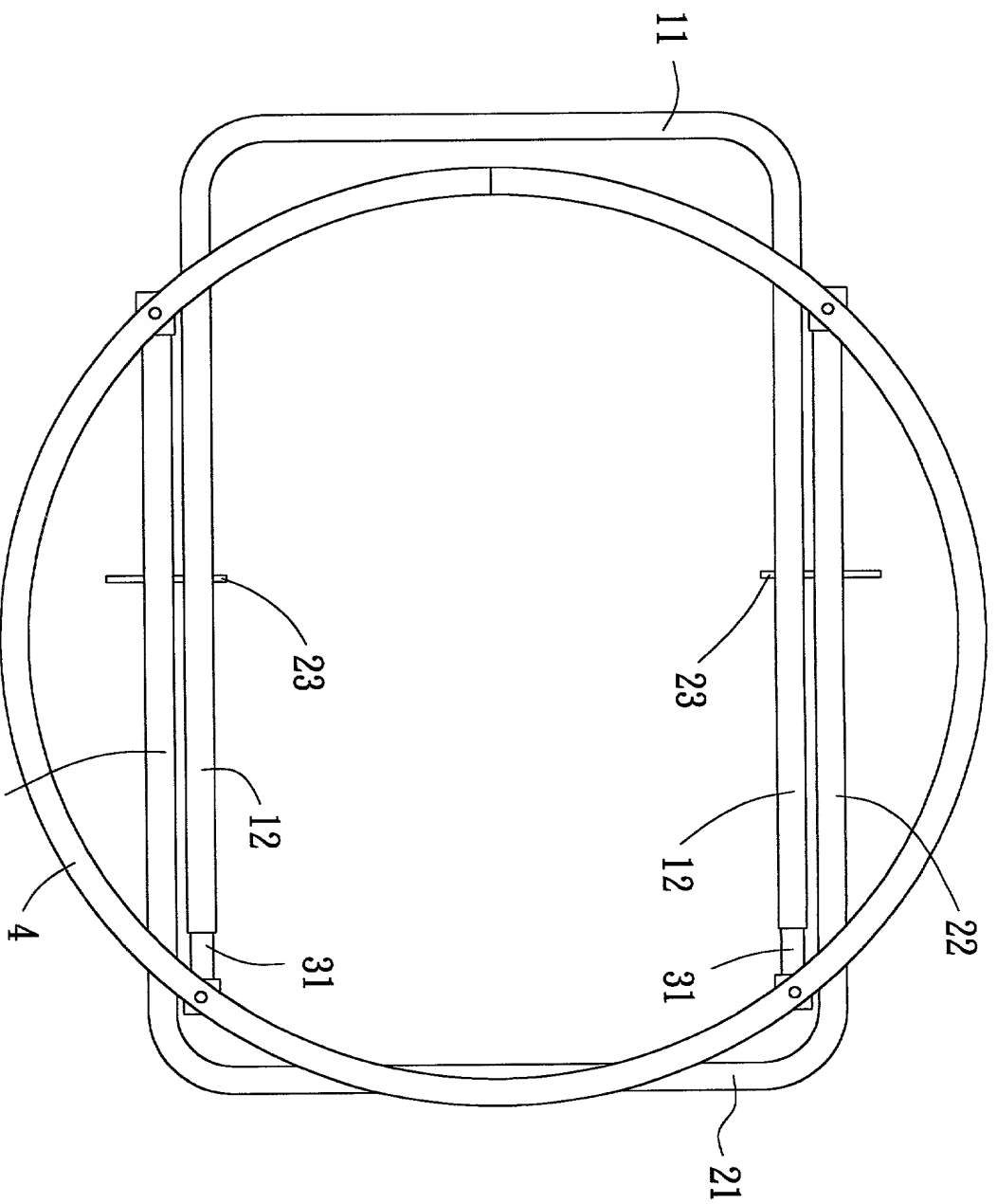


FIG. 5

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

專利申請聲明及委託書

Chinese Language Declaration

中文聲明

作為下述聲明者，我在此宣告：

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

我的住址、郵局地址和國籍均列在我名下：

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

我相信我是首創的、第一個和唯一的聲明者(如只列出一人姓名)或是首創的、首位共同發明者(如列出數人姓名)。我提出作為專利申請權利要求的題目如下：

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

FOLDABLE CHAIR FRAME

如不在下面小方格中打叉則須將說明書附此：

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☐ 以美國申請號碼或PCT國際申請號碼
立案于
修正于(如適用)

☐ was filed on
as United States Application Number or PCT
International Application Number
and was amended on
(if applicable).

我在此聲明我已閱讀並理解上述說明書的內容,包括上述任何修正案所修正的權利要求。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

按照聯邦法規第三十七節第一·五六條，我有責任提供支持專利權的實質性資料。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56..

Chinese Language Declaration

我申請享受按照美國法規三十五節第一百一十九條列出的以下任何外國專利申請書或發明者証書的外國優先權，並確認下列具有優先權申請前立案日期的、任何外國專利申請書或發明者証書。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

89210167	Taiwan	14/June/2000	是否要求優先權	
(號碼)	(國名)	(申請日/月/年)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	是	否
			Yes	No
(號碼)	(國名)	(申請日/月/年)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	是	否
			Yes	No
(號碼)	(國名)	(申請日/月/年)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	是	否
			Yes	No

我申請享受按照美國法規第三十五節一百二十條列出的以下任何美國申請書的利益，如果此申請書中提出的每項權利要求的題目未按美國法規第三十五節第一百二十條第一段的要求在以前的美國申請書中披露，則我有責任按照聯邦法規第三十七節第一·五六(甲)條提供支持專利權的實質性資料，這一法規條文生效于以前申請的立案日期之後，但在美國或PCT國際申請立案日期之前。

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(申請順序號碼)	(申請日期)	(狀況)	(Status)
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(已複專利權、申請中、取消)	(patented, pending, abandoned)
(申請順序號碼)	(申請日期)	(狀況)	(Status)
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(已複專利權、申請中、取消)	(patented, pending, abandoned)

我在此聲明根據我所知而作的所有聲明都真實無誤，所有有關資料和信息的聲明也真實無誤；我還知道，按照美國法規第十八節第一千零一項，任何蓄意偽造的聲明都將受到罰款或監禁，或同時受到兩種懲罰。這類蓄意偽造的聲明將危及此申請書或任何已頒發專利的效力。

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Chinese Language Declaration

委託書：

以列名發明者的身份，我在此指定下列律師和/或代理人執行此申請並從事與專利商標公署有關的所有業務(列出姓名和註冊號碼)：

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agents(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

Please see attachment

回信請寄：

Send Correspondence to:
JACOBSON, PRICE, HOLMAN & STERN
400 Seventh Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20004
U.S.A.

直撥電話(姓名及電話號碼)

Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number)
(202)638-6666

第一個或唯一的發明者全名	Full name of sole or first inventor Chun-Hsien TSENG
發明者簽字 日期	Inventor's signature Date <i>Tseng Chun-Hsien</i> July 14, 2000
地址	Residence Chiayi Hsien, Taiwan
國籍	Citizenship Taiwan
郵局地址	Post Office Address No. 3, Ting-Hsi-Hsin, Lu-Man Tsun, Chu-
	Chi Hsiang, Chiayi Hsien, Taiwan
第二個共同發明者全名(如有)	Full name of second joint inventor, if any
第二個發明者簽字 日期	Second Inventor's signature Date
地址	Residence
國籍	Citizenship
郵局地址	Post Office Address

(第三個和其他共同發明者需提供同樣資料和簽字。) (Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

009270 0622950

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